

2008 ARRL International EME Competition Results

Competitive proving ground of skills and emerging technologies.

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Earth-Moon-Earth (EME) operators ran up their power bills for the 30th annual ARRL International EME Competition, held on September 20-21, October 18-19 and November 15-16. The 2008 event once again provided outstanding activity and produced some nice scores. Smaller stations are scoring higher, and higher total scores have been logged by most participants nearly every year.

For the accomplished microwave contesteer, 2304 MHz and Up competition occurred on the first weekend. Moon passes on the second and third weekends were reserved for 50 MHz through 1296 MHz. (Weekends are dedicated to different sets of bands to allow station and antenna reconfiguration.)

EME Categories

In this annual event, participants may choose from a variety of entry categories. Single-Operator stations are the event mainstay with a handful of Multi-Operator teams. Other categories include operating CW-only, Digital-only or Mixed Mode. Participants must also choose to compete using a single band or as an All-Band entry in either of the 50-1296 MHz or 2304 MHz and Up groups. The Assisted category allows the contestant to coordinate and advertise their operation during the contest by means of the Internet or otherwise.

The results of the competition show a total of 140 entrants and 7 check logs. Of the

total, nearly 90% of the entries are Single-Operator with entries in almost all of the different categories. The total of 140 submitted logs with 8500 completed QSOs in 2008 is down from 2007's 183 entries and 10,100 QSOs. Single-Band, 222 MHz remains the only category for which an entry has never been received.

Category Winners

The overall highest score of the competition goes this year to the mighty Multi-Op, All-Band, Mixed-Mode efforts of HB9Q with 360 Qs and a score of 5,724,000 points. The competition's second highest score overall was made by Team K1JT. With a score of 5,696,000 for their 356 contacts completed, Team K1JT was operating as a "Neighborhood" Multi-Op, All-Band, Mixed-Mode entry, combining 144 MHz operation at K1JT with other bands through 10 GHz at K2UYH. Top scores in each category are shown in the table below.

Increase Your Aperture!

More about the EME Competition including complete scores, comments from the entrants and informative sidebars is available at www.arrl.org/contests/results.

Where the Action Is

The 2304 MHz band is showing more and more activity. This contest was a good example of the increasing population on 13 cm. 13 cm is likely the New Band of Choice for the more technically minded ham and a good place to find the modern analog operator on CW and SSB.

The 144 MHz band has always been host to the greatest activity. The use of digital mode JT65b from the WSJT suite of software (available for free at www.k1jt.com) was the choice of the 2 meter contesteer in 2008. The quantity of CW stations was down considerably from years past.

The 23 cm band was also a good place to hunt points for the contesteer. Many smaller stations are now enjoying 1296 MHz EME with quite a few of them active on the second and third weekends.

EME — Learn More

EME should be attempted by any amateurs wanting to try something new, exciting and rewarding! The Web site of Paul Kelley, N1BUG, at www.n1bug.net/operate/emebasic.html, is a great read for the beginner. To learn more about and download the popular WSJT software suite, see the Web site of Joe Taylor, K1JT: www.physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/K1JT.

EME contesting is in the reach of even the weekend VHFer. Try it — it's fun, it's technical and it's rewarding!

Top Scores and Category Winners

Category	Winner	Score
Single Operator, All Band, Analog	G3LTF	1,582,400
Single Operator, All Band, Mixed Mode	OH2DG	967,500
Single Operator, Multi-Band, 50-1296 MHz Analog	VK3UM	618,000
Single Operator, Multi-Band, 50-1296 MHz Digital	VK4CDI	28,500
Single Operator, Multi-Band, 50-1296 MHz Mixed-Mode	WA4NJP	459,200
Single Operator, 50 MHz, Digital	JR6EXN	1,600
Single Operator, 144 MHz, Analog	LA8YB	159,600
Single Operator, 144 MHz, Digital	HA0HO	251,600
Single Operator, 144 MHz, Mixed Mode	RA6DA	1,252,900
Single Operator, 144 MHz, Mixed Mode, Assisted	RU1AA	3,175,900
Single Operator, 432 MHz, Analog	I1NDP	198,000
Single Operator, 1296 MHz, Analog	DL0SHF (DL6LAU, op)	438,600
Single Operator, 1296 MHz, Mixed Mode	PA3FXB	107,500
Single Operator, 1296 MHz, Mixed Mode, Assisted	PY2BS	18,000
Single Operator, Multi-Band, 2.4 GHz and Up	RW1AW	256,500

Category	Winner	Score
Single Operator, 2.4 GHz	WD5AGO	39,600
Single Operator, 10 GHz	F5JWF	14,300
Single Operator, 24 GHz	DF1OI	900
Multi-operator, All-Band Mixed	HB9Q	5,724,000
Multi-operator, Multi-Band, 50-1296 MHz Analog	SP6JLW	713,900
Multi-operator, Multi-Band, 50-1296 MHz Mixed Mode	RK3WWF	934,800
Multi-operator, 144 MHz Mixed Assisted	K5QE	1,258,000
Multi-operator, 432 MHz Analog	OH2PO	213,000
Multi-operator, 1296 MHz Analog	LA2Z	41,400
Multi-operator, 1296 MHz Mixed Mode	VA7MM	160,000
Multi-operator, Multi-band, 2.4 GHz and Up	OK1KIR	36,000
Commercial Equipment Entrants		
Multi-operator, Multi-Band, 50-1296 MHz Mixed Mode	PI9CAM	1,833,500
Multi-operator, 144 MHz Mixed Mode	8J1AXA	57,800

The ARRL Contest Staff gratefully acknowledges the following amateurs who submitted their logs as checklogs: DL7APV, EA3MS, JM1WBB, PA3CWN, PJ4NX, RW3BP and UA4HAK. 